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FORBIDDEN TALES OF
DARK MANSION
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FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

COME, DEAR READER, THROUGH THE FOG-ENSHROUDED PORTALS OF THE DARK MANSION! LET ME GUIDE YOU DOWN THE SHADOWED CORRIDORS AND THROUGH THE DARKENED DOORWAYS OF A THOUSAND EMPTY ROOMS, WHISPERING THEIR SECRETS IN THE PRE-DAWN STILLNESS! BUT TREAD LIGHTLY, I WARN YOU, FOR IF THE MANSION'S DEMONS DETECT YOUR PRESENCE--YOU WILL HAVE NO PLACE LEFT TO HIDE!
MK KALUTA
J-3171

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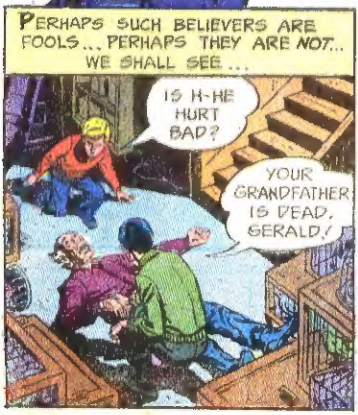
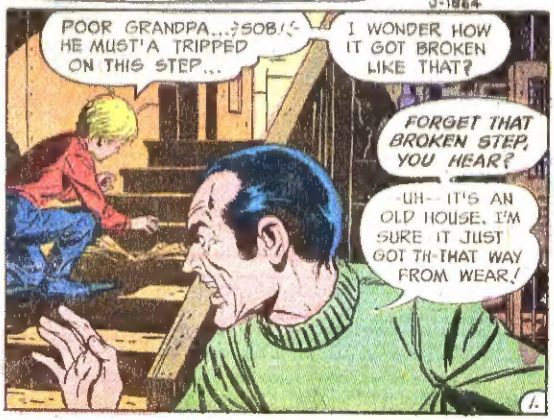
A CHANGE of BODIES!

ART BY: BILL DRAUT
STORY BY: JOHN ALBANO

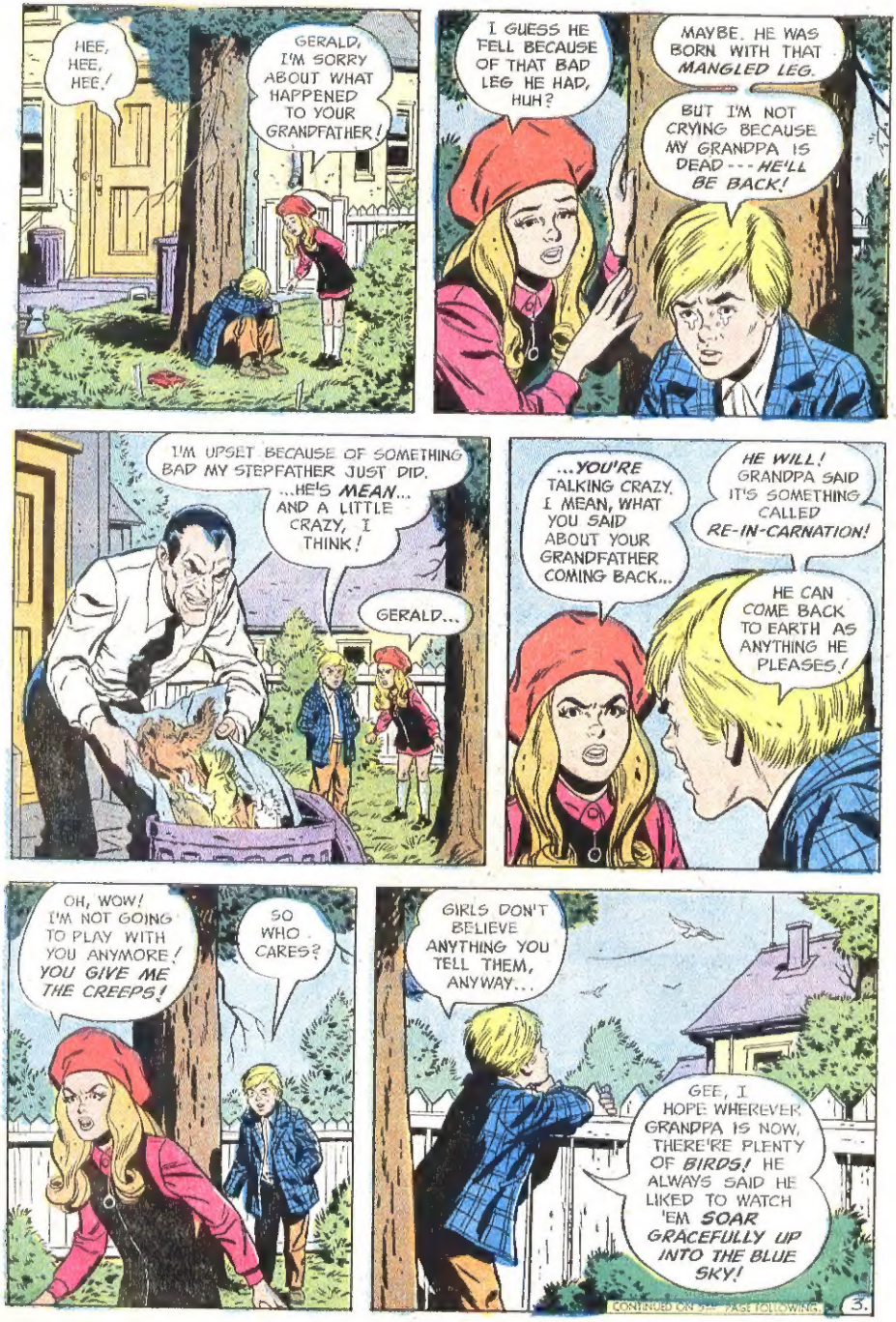
WITNESS THE LAST CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF CLAUDE HILLORY. WITHIN SECONDS THE MATERIAL FORM OF THIS UNFORTUNATE OLD MAN WILL CEASE TO EXIST... SOON HIS BROKEN BODY WILL BE CARRIED AWAY AND LAID TO REST IN A LONELY, DESOLATE CEMETERY, AND IN TIME, THE MEMORY OF HIS EARTHLY EXISTENCE WILL ALL BUT BE FORGOTTEN, AS WITH ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON TO THE MYSTERIOUS BEYOND...
CRACK!
AiiiEEEEE!
AH, BUT THERE ARE THOSE AMONG US WHO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT DEATH IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TRANSFORMATION -- A CHANGING OF THE SPIRIT FROM ONE EARTHLY EXISTENCE TO ANOTHER... A PROCESS KNOWN AS REINCARNATION --

J-1864

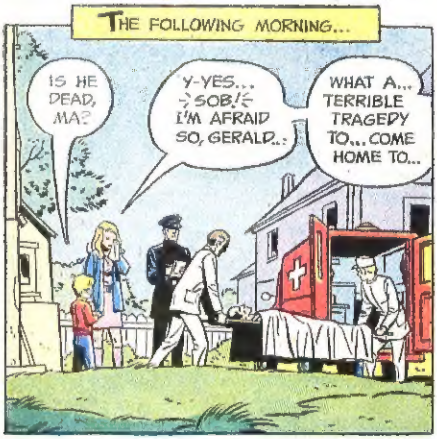


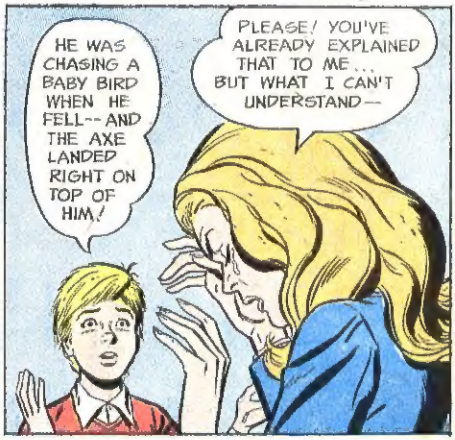

POOR GRANDPA...SOB!- HE MUST'A TRIPPED ON THIS STEP...
I WONDER HOW IT GOT BROKEN LIKE THAT?
FORGET THAT BROKEN STEP, YOU HEAR?
-UH-- IT'S AN OLD HOUSE, I'M SURE IT JUST GOT TH-THAT WAY FROM WEAR!

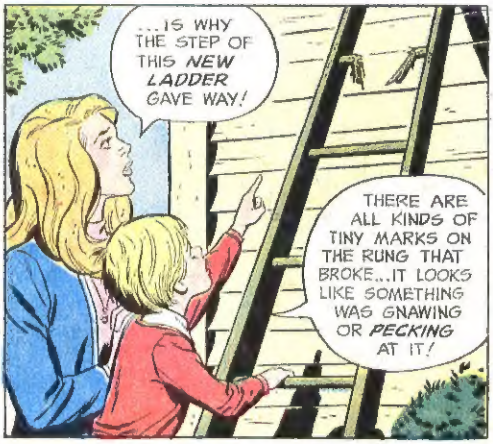
AND SOON AFTERWARD, THE FUNERAL...
I WISH MOM HAD BEEN HERE TO SAY GOODBYE TO GRANDPA... INSTEAD OF BEING IN EUROPE!
YOUR MOTHER IS A FOREIGN SALES REPRESENTATIVE, GERALD--SHE CAN'T JUST POP HOME ANYTIME SHE HAS A MIND TO!
HAPPYREST CEMETERY
AND SOMETIME LATER, AS GERALD AND HIS STEPFATHER ARRIVE BACK HOME...
OH, GOSH! GRANDFATHER'S BIRDS! THEY MUST BE HUNGRY!
I'D BETTER--
SCREECH!
SCREECH!
YOU'D BETTER STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, BRAT!
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY INTERFERENCE FROM YOUR 'LOVING' GRANDPA ANYMORE! SO FROM HERE ON IN, YOU'LL OBEY ME WITHOUT QUESTION!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE FILTHY CREATURES!
BEEN WAITING TO WRING THEIR FLEA-RIDDEN NECKS EVER SINCE THE OLD MAN BROUGHT THEM HERE, WHEN HE CAME TO LIVE WITH US...
SCREECH!
SCREECH!
PEEP PEEP!
SCREECH
SCREECH!
HEE, HEE, HEE, COULDN'T LET THE OLD BUZZARD KNOW HOW MUCH I HATED HIS PETS, OR HE MIGHT HAVE DISINHERITED US ALL!
BUT THANKS TO MY INGENIOUS 'CARPENTRY,' I'VE GOTTEN RID OF HIM, SO...
SCR-CHH!
DAD! NO! PLEASE!
PEEP!
SCREECH!
2.

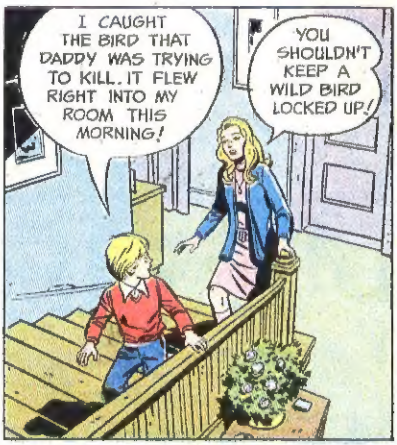

HEE, HEE, HEE!
GERALD, I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GRANDFATHER!
I GUESS HE FELL BECAUSE OF THAT BAD LEG HE HAD, HUH?
MAYBE. HE WAS BORN WITH THAT MANGLED LEG.
BUT I'M NOT CRYING BECAUSE MY GRANDPA IS DEAD --- HE'LL BE BACK!
I'M UPSET BECAUSE OF SOMETHING BAD MY STEPFATHER JUST DID. ...HE'S MEAN... AND A LITTLE CRAZY, I THINK!
GERALD...
...YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY. I MEAN, WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT YOUR GRANDFATHER COMING BACK...
HE WILL! GRANDPA SAID IT'S SOMETHING CALLED RE-IN-CARNATION!
HE CAN COME BACK TO EARTH AS ANYTHING HE PLEASES!
OH, WOW! I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE! YOU GIVE ME THE CREEPS!
SO WHO CARES?
GIRLS DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU TELL THEM, ANYWAY...
GEE, I HOPE WHEREVER GRANDPA IS NOW, THERE'RE PLENTY OF BIRDS! HE ALWAYS SAID HE LIKED TO WATCH 'EM SOAR GRACEFULLY UP INTO THE BLUE SKY!
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING
3.

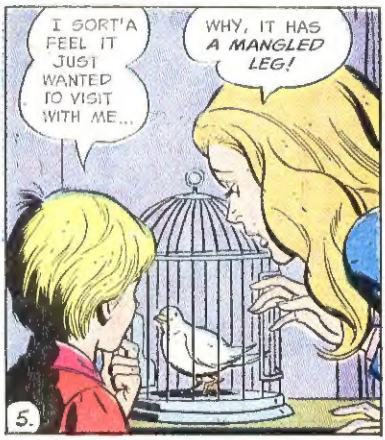
WITHOUT THE COMPANY OF HIS GRANDFATHER, THE DAYS ARE LONG AND LONELY FOR GERALD... ANXIOUSLY HE AWAITS THE RETURN OF HIS MOTHER, BUT SEVERAL WEEKS PASS BEFORE HE RECEIVES WORD THAT SHE IS DUE HOME... THEN, ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HER ARRIVAL...
?
PEEP
PEEP!
WHA—? A BIRD! IT'S HURT! MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT OF THE TREE— AND NOW THAT CAT—
PEEP
PEEP
SCAT! Y'HEAR? SCAT!
GERALD! WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT—
—OH! SO WE HAVE COMPANY! ONE OF THOSE DISEASE-CARRYING PESTS AGAIN, HUH?
PEEP
WHA—? IT FLEW AWAY!
BLASTED DEVIL MUST'VE JUST BEEN STUNNED!
PEEP
...IT 'LIGHTED ON THE ROOF!
SITTING THERE JUST DARING ME TO COME AFTER IT!
ALL RIGHT, YOU MANGY—
??
YIIEEEE!
CRACK
4

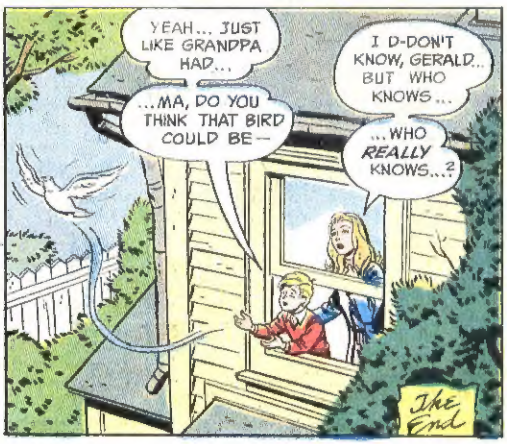

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
IS HE DEAD, MA?
Y-YES... SOB! I'M AFRAID SO, GERALD..
WHAT A... TERRIBLE TRAGEDY TO... COME HOME TO...


HE WAS CHASING A BABY BIRD WHEN HE FELL-- AND THE AXE LANDED RIGHT ON TOP OF HIM!
PLEASE! YOU'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED THAT TO ME... BUT WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND—


...IS WHY THE STEP OF THIS NEW LADDER GAVE WAY!
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF TINY MARKS ON THE RUNG THAT BROKE...IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING WAS GNAWING OR PECKING AT IT!


I CAUGHT THE BIRD THAT DADDY WAS TRYING TO KILL. IT FLEW RIGHT INTO MY ROOM THIS MORNING!
YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP A WILD BIRD LOCKED UP!

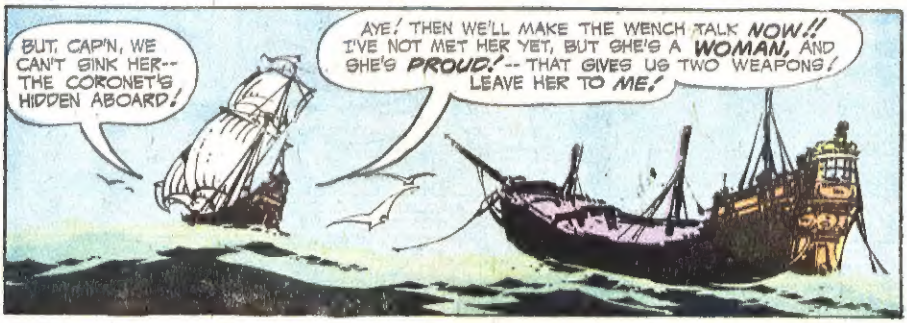

I SORT'A FEEL IT JUST WANTED TO VISIT WITH ME...
WHY, IT HAS A MANGLED LEG!
5.

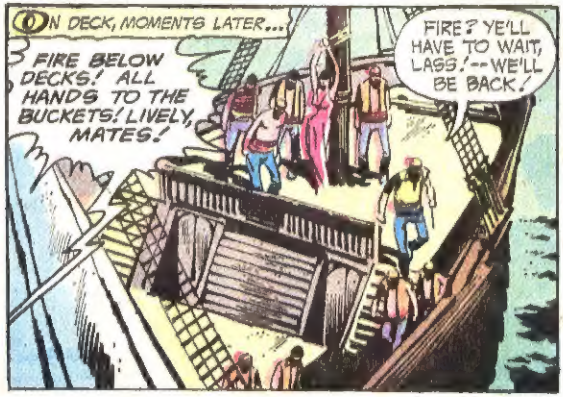

YEAH... JUST LIKE GRANDPA HAD...
...MA, DO YOU THINK THAT BIRD COULD BE—
I D-DON'T KNOW, GERALD.. BUT WHO KNOWS...
...WHO REALLY KNOWS...?
The End

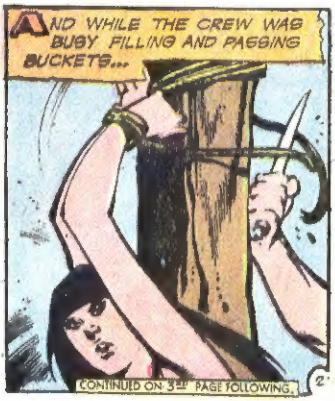
CAN THE DEAD COME BACK FOR REVENGE? CAPTAIN BILLY FLEECE, THE MURDEROUS 17TH CENTURY PIRATE, WOULD HAVE HAD MUCH TO FEAR HAD HE BELIEVED THAT-- BUT IN HIS BUSINESS, FEAR WAS A LUXURY-- SO HE LAUGHED AT GHOSTS!-- THEN HE CAPTURED THE FAMOUS JEWELED CROWN OF CASTILLE-- AND FOUND THAT LAUGHING AT GHOSTS CAN BE COSTLY, BECAUSE THIS TIME...
DEATH LAUGHED LAST!
HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA H
HA
HA HA
HA
J. SOTT
STORY: SHELLEY MAYER
ART: ALEX NINO
IT HAD BEEN A RICH CAPTURE! --A SPANISH GALLEON CARRYING A YOUNG PRINCESS AND HER FAMOUS DOWERY! -- BUT THE PRINCESS PROVED TO BE A PROBLEM--
WE KNOW YE WAS ON YER WEDDIN' VOYAGE, PRINCESS,'-- YER DOWERY-- THE JEWELLED CROWN OF CASTILLE-- WE WANTS IT!
PIRATE PIGS! I SPIT ON YOU! THE CROWN IS HIDDEN WHERE YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT!

YOU CAN KILL ME, BUT I WON'T YIELD! NOT AN INCH!
SHE'S A STUBBORN WENCH--WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!

CAP'N... THE PRINCESS IS TOUGHER'N WE THOUGHT --IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO BREAK HER!
WE DON'T HAVE DAYS! THESE WATERS ARE FULL OF SPANISH MEN-O'-WAR! -- AND WE MAKE NO SPEED TOWING THAT DAMAGED PRIZE SHIP BEHIND US!


BUT, CAP'N, WE CAN'T SINK HER-- THE CORONET'S HIDDEN ABOARD!
AYE! THEN WE'LL MAKE THE WENCH TALK NOW!! I'VE NOT MET HER YET, BUT SHE'S A WOMAN, AND SHE'S PROUD! -- THAT GIVES US TWO WEAPONS! LEAVE HER TO ME!


ON DECK, MOMENTS LATER...
FIRE BELOW DECKS! ALL HANDS TO THE BUCKETS! LIVELY, MATES!
FIRE? YE'LL HAVE TO WAIT, LASS! -- WE'LL BE BACK!


AND WHILE THE CREW WAS BUSY FILLING AND PASSING BUCKETS...
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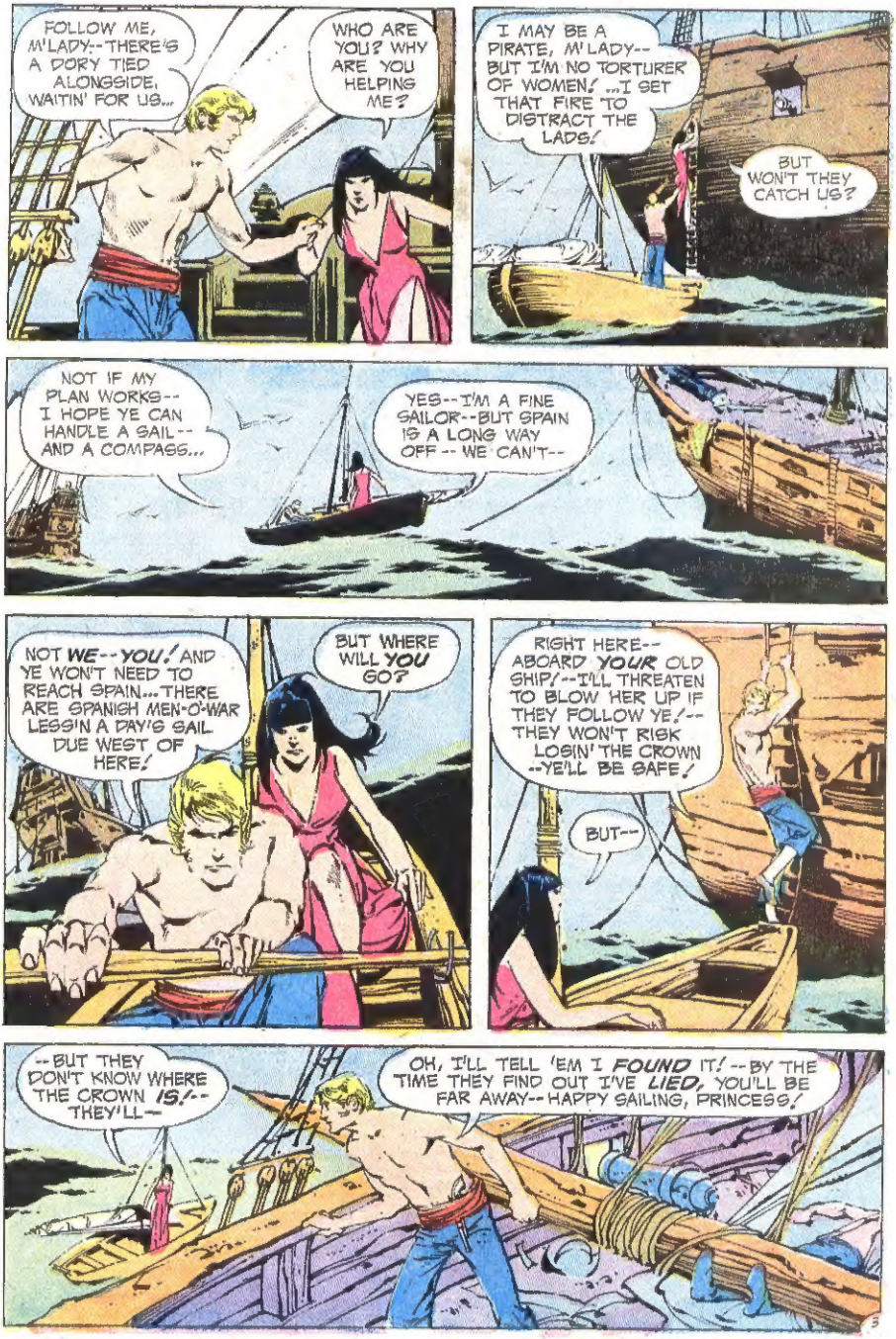
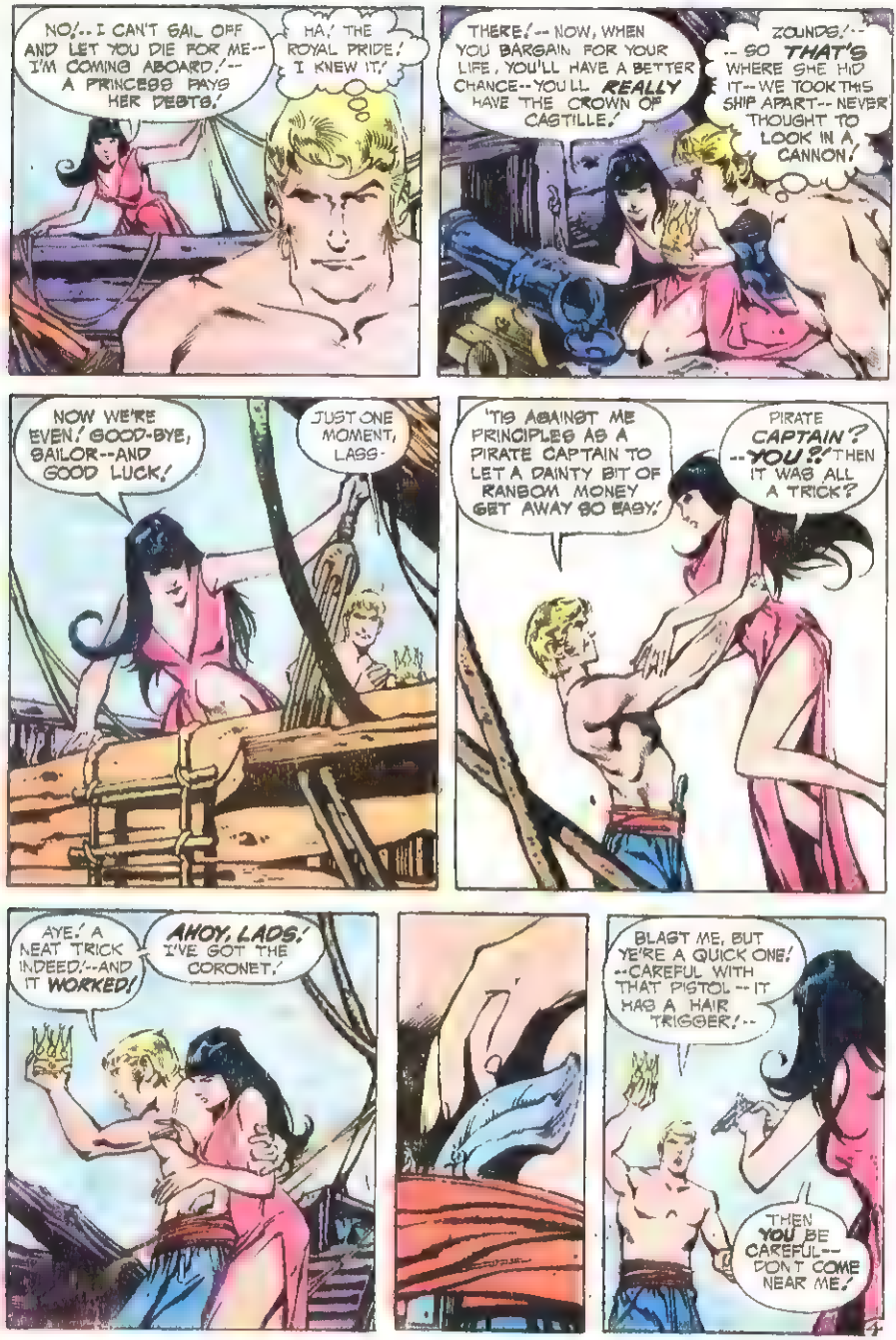
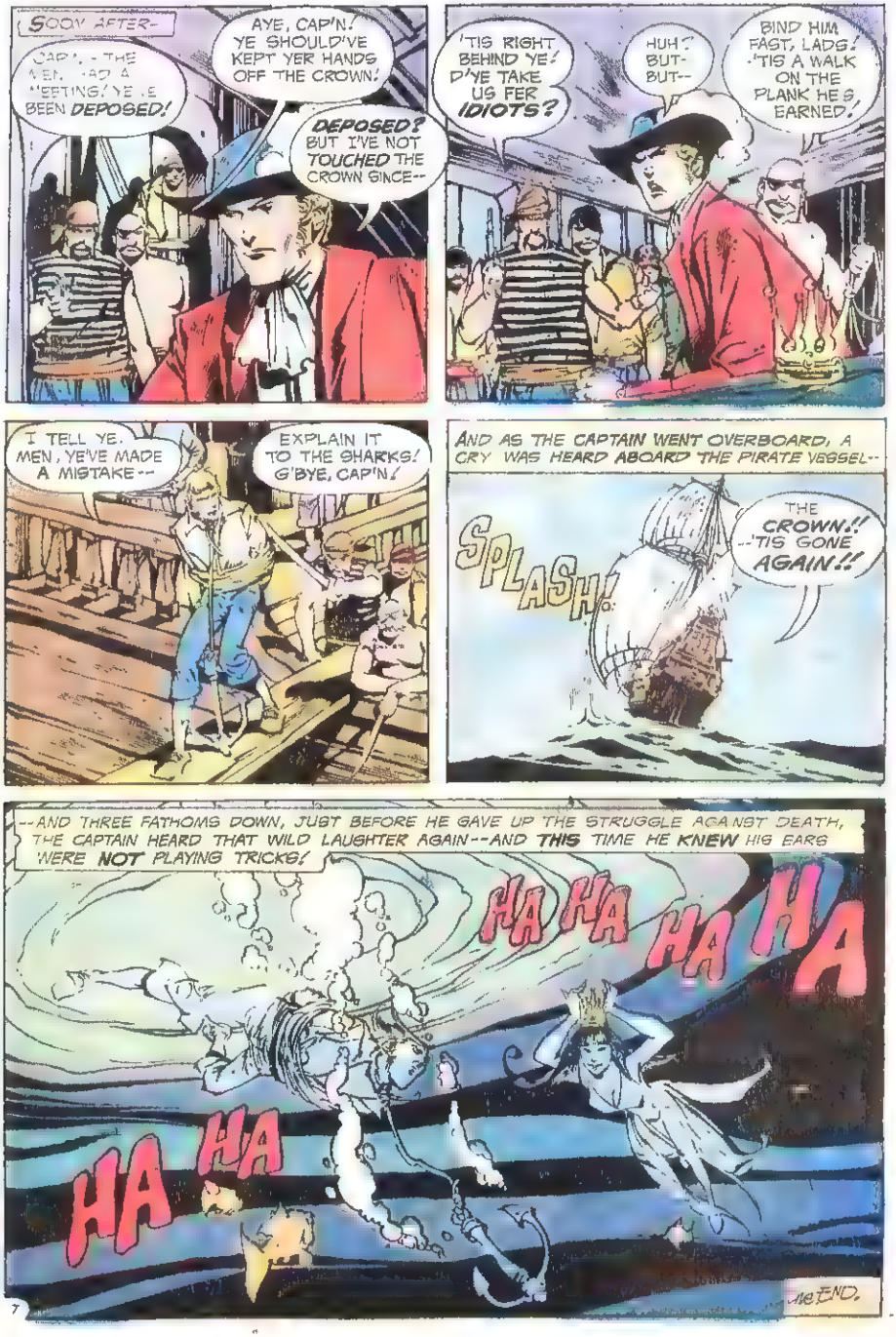

FOLLOW ME, M'LADY--THERE'S A DORY TIED ALONGSIDE, WAITIN' FOR US...
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
I MAY BE A PIRATE, M'LADY--BUT I'M NO TORTURER OF WOMEN! ...I SET THAT FIRE TO DISTRACT THE LADS!
BUT WON'T THEY CATCH US?
NOT IF MY PLAN WORKS--I HOPE YE CAN HANDLE A SAIL--AND A COMPASS...
YES--I'M A FINE SAILOR--BUT SPAIN IS A LONG WAY OFF--WE CAN'T--
NOT WE--YOU! AND YE WON'T NEED TO REACH SPAIN...THERE ARE SPANISH MEN-O'-WAR LESSIN A DAY'S SAIL DUE WEST OF HERE!
BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO?
RIGHT HERE--ABOARD YOUR OLD SHIP!--I'LL THREATEN TO BLOW HER UP IF THEY FOLLOW YE!--THEY WON'T RISK LOSIN' THE CROWN --YE'LL BE SAFE!
BUT--
--BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THE CROWN IS!--THEY'LL--
OH, I'LL TELL 'EM I FOUND IT!--BY THE TIME THEY FIND OUT I'VE LIED, YOU'LL BE FAR AWAY--HAPPY SAILING, PRINCESS!

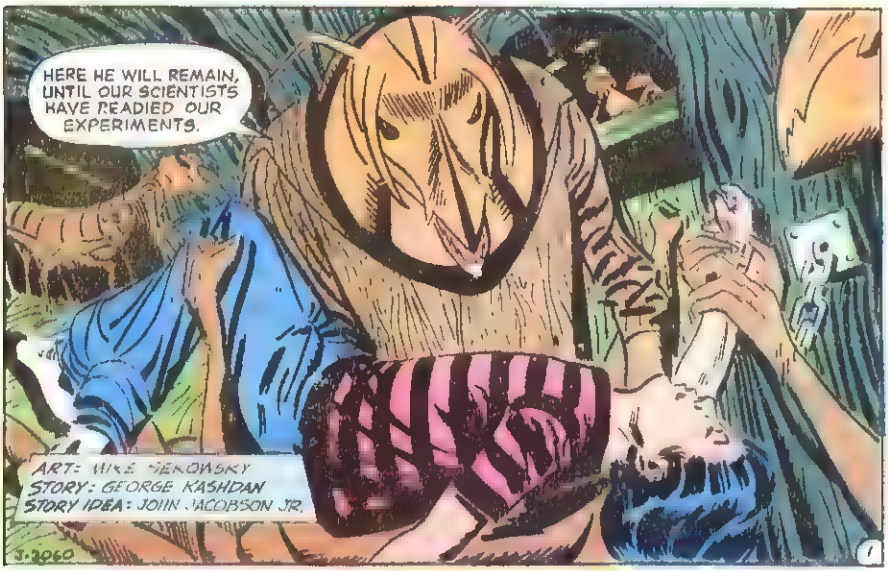

NO!.. I CAN'T SAIL OFF AND LET YOU DIE FOR ME-- I'M COMING ABOARD!-- A PRINCESS PAYS HER DEBTS!
HA! THE ROYAL PRIDE! I KNEW IT!
THERE!-- NOW, WHEN YOU BARGAIN FOR YOUR LIFE, YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE--YOU'LL REALLY HAVE THE CROWN OF CASTILLE!
ZOUNDS!-- -- SO THAT'S WHERE SHE HID IT-- WE TOOK THIS SHIP APART-- NEVER THOUGHT TO LOOK IN A CANNON!
NOW WE'RE EVEN! GOOD-BYE, SAILOR--AND GOOD LUCK!
JUST ONE MOMENT, LASS-
'TIS AGAINST ME PRINCIPLES AS A PIRATE CAPTAIN TO LET A DAINTY BIT OF RANSOM MONEY GET AWAY SO EASY!
PIRATE CAPTAIN? --YOU?! THEN IT WAS ALL A TRICK?
AYE! A NEAT TRICK INDEED!--AND IT WORKED!
AHOY, LADS! I'VE GOT THE CORONET!
BLAST ME, BUT YE'RE A QUICK ONE! --CAREFUL WITH THAT PISTOL -- IT HAS A HAIR TRIGGER!--
THEN YOU BE CAREFUL-- DON'T COME NEAR ME!

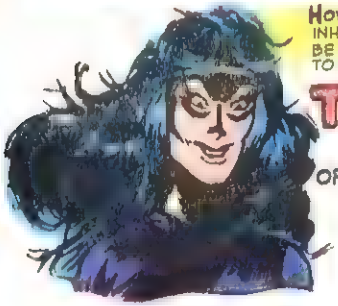
NOW, BE SENSIBLE! --YE DON'T THINK I'D LET A WENCH GET THE BETTER OF ME, DO YE?--DROP THE PISTOL.
NO. LET GO, YOU... YOU--
WHAT'S AMISS CAP'N? I HEARD A SHOT.
THE STUBBORN WENCH--I WARNED HER ABOUT THAT TRIGGER--NOW SHE'S DEAD! --COST US A FAT RANSOM, TOO--BUT WE HAVE THE CROWN.
THE PRINCESS WAS BURIED AT SEA--THE SPANISH HULL SCUTTLED, AND THE PIRATE SHIP SAILED FOR SAFER WATERS WITH THE CROWN OF CASTILLE ABOARD--
BUT NEXT MORNING--
CAP'N! THE CROWN!-- IT WAS WITH THE OTHER BOOTY-- NOW 'TIS GONE!
THIEVES ABOARD ME OWN SHIP? SOMEONE TOO IMPATIENT TO WAIT FOR SHARING, EH? --SEARCH EVERY MAN ABOARD!

AYE...AYE, CAP'N--
WAIT, MULLIN! LOOK-- HERE'S THE CROWN!! 'TWAS STICKIN' OUT FROM UNDER THIS PILLOW!
SINK ME! HOW DID IT GET HERE?
I DUNNO, CAP'N--BUT IT DIDN'T WALK!! --THE MEN WON'T LIKE THIS!--YE KNOW THE RULES ABOUT SHARING BOOTY!
BLAZES, MULLIN! ARE YE ACCUSIN' YER OWN CAPTAIN?
MULLIN LEFT WITHOUT A REPLY --AND THEN--
WHO'S THAT? WHO'S LAUGHING IN HERE?
THE CABIN'S EMPTY!
PHAUGH! 'TWAS BUT A TRICK ME EARS PLAYED ON ME--
AN HOUR LATER--
MULLIN LOOK! THE CROWN IS GONE AGAIN! 'TWAS RIGHT ON TOP OF THAT CHEST!
STAB ME FOR A SPANIARD! --THERE IS A THEF ABOARD!
AYE! --AND WE KNOW WHO 'T.S. --LOOK DOWN THE CAPN'S SKY-LIGHT!
AYE! THERE'S THE CROWN! BIG AS LIFE!
WE'D BEST CALL A MEETING OF THE LADS!


SOON AFTER--
CAP'N,--THE MEN HAD A MEETING! YE'VE BEEN DEPOSED!
AYE, CAP'N! YE SHOULD'VE KEPT YER HANDS OFF THE CROWN!
DEPOSED? BUT I'VE NOT TOUCHED THE CROWN SINCE--
'TIS RIGHT BEHIND YE! D'YE TAKE US FER IDIOTS?
HUH? BUT-- BUT--
BIND HIM FAST, LADS! 'TIS A WALK ON THE PLANK HE'S EARNED!
I TELL YE, MEN, YE'VE MADE A MISTAKE--
EXPLAIN IT TO THE SHARKS! G'BYE, CAP'N!
AND AS THE CAPTAIN WENT OVERBOARD, A CRY WAS HEARD ABOARD THE PIRATE VESSEL--
SPLASH!
THE CROWN!! --'TIS GONE AGAIN!!
--AND THREE FATHOMS DOWN, JUST BEFORE HE GAVE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST DEATH, THE CAPTAIN HEARD THAT WILD LAUGHTER AGAIN--AND THIS TIME HE KNEW HIS EARS WERE NOT PLAYING TRICKS!
HA HA HA HA
HA HA
THE END.

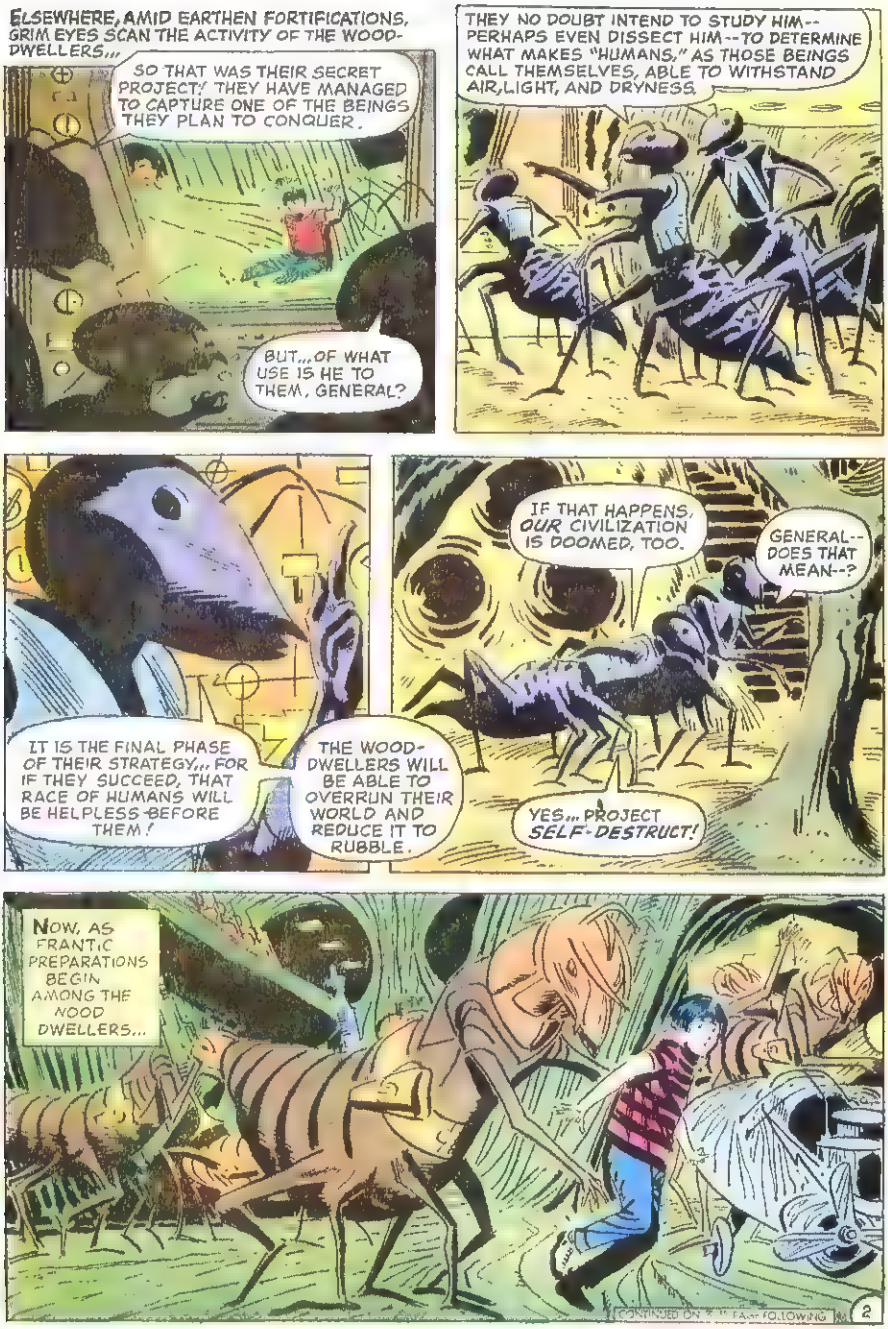
HOW'D I GET HERE?
ALL I REMEMBER IS FLASHING LIGHTS AND A RAY... A RAY THAT SUCKED ME UP LIKE A VOLCANO!
I FEEL OKAY, BUT-- WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME?


HERE HE WILL REMAIN, UNTIL OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE READIED OUR EXPERIMENTS.
ART: MIKE SEKOWSKY
STORY: GEORGE KASHDAN
STORY IDEA: JOHN JACOBSON JR.
J.3060



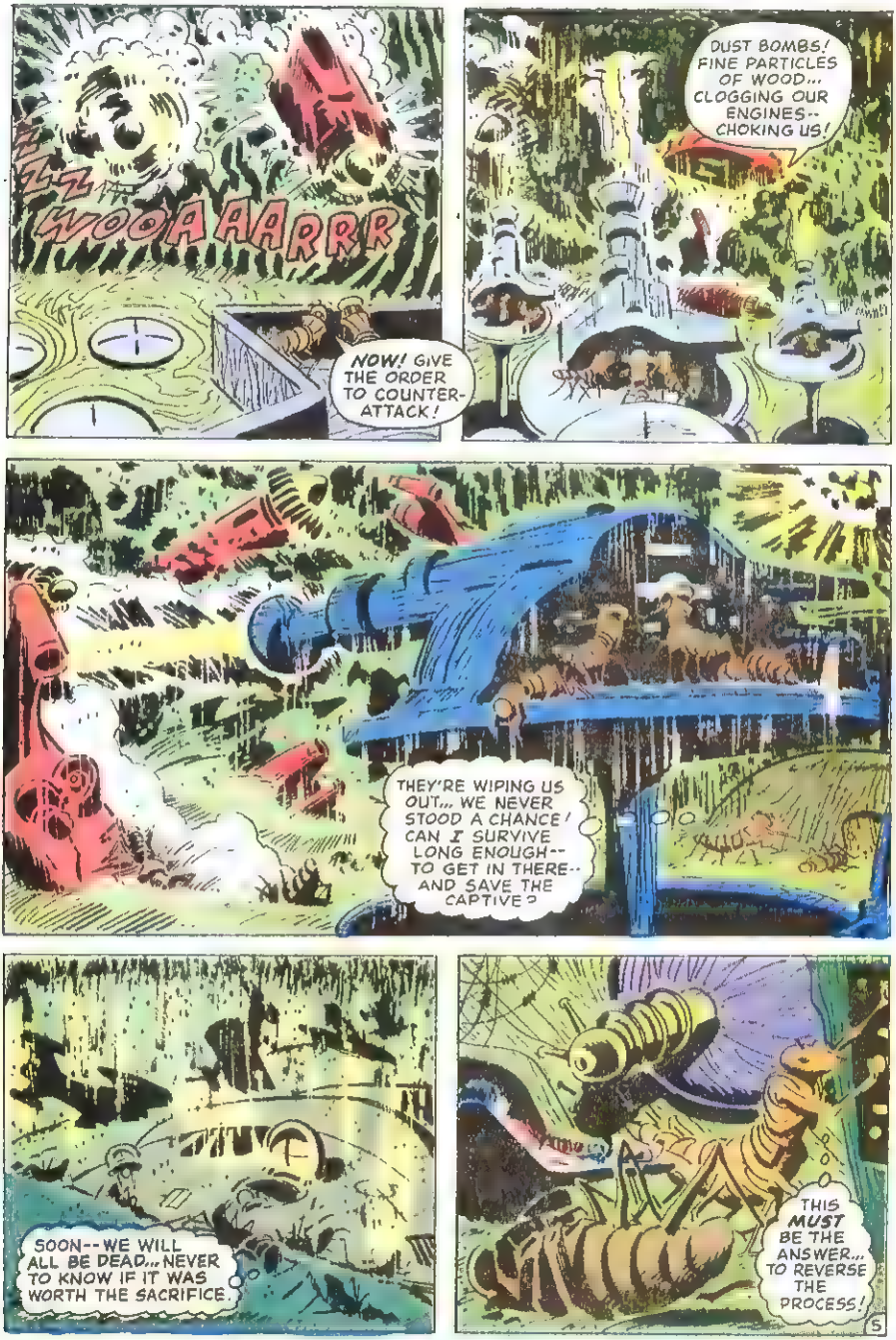
HOW OFTEN IT'S BEEN ASKED: HOW MANY WORLDS ARE INHABITED BESIDES OUR OWN? WILL EARTH'S FIRST VISITORS BE "HAWKS" OR "DOVES" OR *INSECTS?* WHO WILL BE FIRST TO CAPTURE...

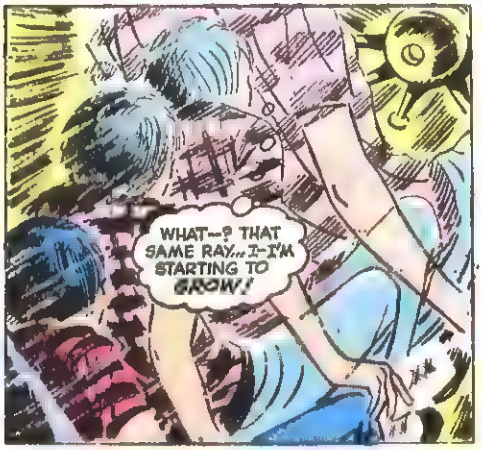
TARGET: PLANET OF THE TWO-LEGGED MEN!

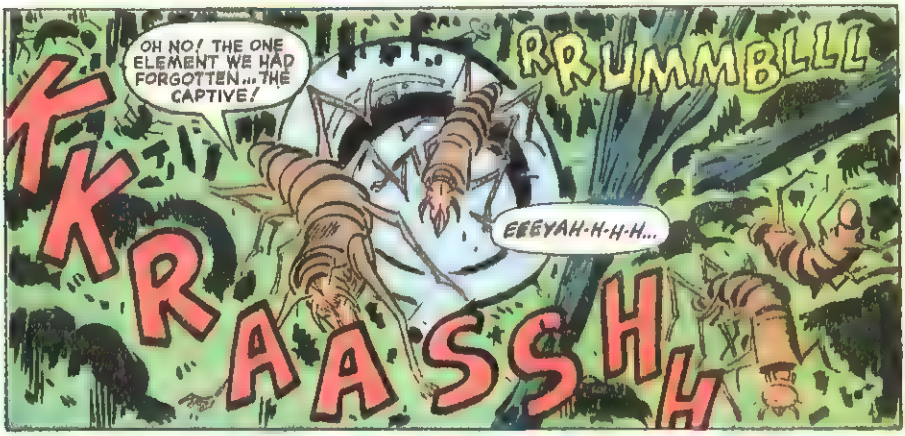

ELSEWHERE, AMID EARTHEN FORTIFICATIONS, GRIM EYES SCAN THE ACTIVITY OF THE WOOD-DWELLERS...
SO THAT WAS THEIR SECRET PROJECT! THEY HAVE MANAGED TO CAPTURE ONE OF THE BEINGS THEY PLAN TO CONQUER.
BUT... OF WHAT USE IS HE TO THEM, GENERAL?
THEY NO DOUBT INTEND TO STUDY HIM--PERHAPS EVEN DISSECT HIM--TO DETERMINE WHAT MAKES "HUMANS," AS THOSE BEINGS CALL THEMSELVES, ABLE TO WITHSTAND AIR, LIGHT, AND DRYNESS.
IT IS THE FINAL PHASE OF THEIR STRATEGY... FOR IF THEY SUCCEED, THAT RACE OF HUMANS WILL BE HELPLESS BEFORE THEM!
THE WOOD-DWELLERS WILL BE ABLE TO OVERRUN THEIR WORLD AND REDUCE IT TO RUBBLE.
IF THAT HAPPENS, OUR CIVILIZATION IS DOOMED, TOO.
GENERAL--DOES THAT MEAN--?
YES... PROJECT SELF-DESTRUCT!
NOW, AS FRANTIC PREPARATIONS BEGIN AMONG THE WOOD DWELLERS...
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING
2

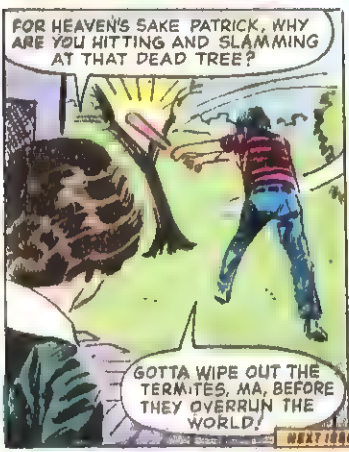
EXCELLENT... HE LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT SPECIMEN.
PLACE HIM DOWN GENTLY... WE DO NOT WISH TO DAMAGE HIM-- YET.
AND SOON A BIZARRE EXPERIMENT BEGINS...
UNBELIEVABLE. THE AMOUNT OF CANDLE-POWER THEIR EYES CAN WITHSTAND.
AND INSIDE HIM, SOME ORGAN PULSATES WITH UNFAILING REGULARITY.
MEANWHILE...
THEY HAVE ALL BEEN INFORMED OF THE RISK?
IF YOU MEAN, GENERAL, DO THEY EXPECT TO SURVIVE? THE ANSWER IS NO.
THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DIE IS EXEMPLARY... BUT IT WILL ALL BE WASTED IF YOU FAIL.
I WILL NOT FAIL, GENERAL.
KEEP IN MIND, AT ALL TIMES, YOUR PRIMARY MISSION... TO RETURN THE CAPTIVE TO HIS WORLD!
IT WILL BE DONE, SIR!
BUT HOW?... WHEN I'M NOT EVEN SURE OF HOW THE CAPTIVE WAS TRANSPORTED TO OUR WORLD.
3

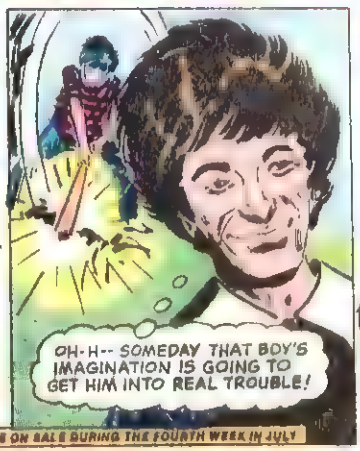
IN THE SOLITUDE OF HIS QUARTERS, THE LONE SOIL-DWELLER READIES FOR HIS MISSION...
DISGUISING MYSELF AS A WOOD-DWELLER WILL NOT BE EASY.
MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT I WILL NOT BE NOTICED IN ALL THE UPHEAVAL.
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, WHERE THE EERIE EXPERIMENT APPROACHES ITS GRIM CLIMAX...
IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN HOW HIS BODY FUNCTIONS IS TO TAKE IT APART, PIECE BY PIECE.
NATURALLY, WE MUST KEEP HIM ALIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
LET US START WITH HIS HEAD...
TO YOUR SHELTERS! THE SOIL-DWELLERS ARE ATTACKING IN FORCE!
THEY MUST HAVE LEARNED OF OUR CAPTIVE... WE WILL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR STUDY-- AND HOPE THAT HE REMAINS ALIVE TILL LATER!
ACTIVATE BORES!


WOOAAARRR
NOW! GIVE THE ORDER TO COUNTER-ATTACK!
DUST BOMBS! FINE PARTICLES OF WOOD... CLOGGING OUR ENGINES-- CHOKING US!
THEY'RE WIPING US OUT... WE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE! CAN I SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH-- TO GET IN THERE-- AND SAVE THE CAPTIVE?
SOON-- WE WILL ALL BE DEAD... NEVER TO KNOW IF IT WAS WORTH THE SACRIFICE.
THIS MUST BE THE ANSWER... TO REVERSE THE PROCESS!
5

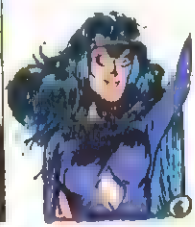





FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE PATRICK, WHY ARE YOU HITTING AND SLAMMING AT THAT DEAD TREE?
GOTTA WIPE OUT THE TERMITES, MA, BEFORE THEY OVERRUN THE WORLD!



A FIGMENT OF A CHILD'S FANCY? OR A SUPER-CIVILIZATION OF ANTS AND TERMITES? PERHAPS THE ANSWER LIES IN ANOTHER HOLLOW DEAD TREE--SOMEWHERE? HMM?



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN JULY

DIRECT CURRENTS

To celebrate Memorial Day weekend, **DC** is getting a really memorable group of comics ready for release next week. Let's take a peek at what'll be coming your way. . .

Batman, the world's greatest detective, afraid of the dark? It couldn't happen in a million years, you say? Well, it **does** happen in the **September** issue of **DETECTIVE COMICS (#436),** coming your way on May 29th. Then ponder this question: did you ever try to think of all the things that holding up two fingers mean? It could be peace, or victory, or two o'clock, or almost anything. But **The Elongated Man** can't just wonder about it—he's got to solve the baffling mystery of "The Sign Of Two Fingers" in this issue.

Get ready for a story packed with both "Love And War" as **SUPERGIRL** wades into the middle of a big city gang war in the **August** issue of her mag **(#6).** If that isn't enough to whet your appetite for this mag, be warned that **Melba Manton,** the Daily Planet's most sensational new reporter, gets another exclusive scoop in "The Final Cut" on **May 29th.**

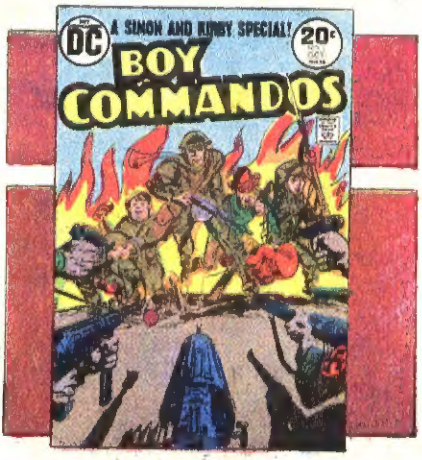
To save the life of his son, a computer programmer orders an experimental computer to summon a demon from the depths of hell! But which is the more dangerous—the demon or the computer? "If This Boy Is But To Live" the **September** issue of **WEIRD MYSTERY TALES (#7)** holds the answer. What would happen if ghosts didn't like crooked mediums spoiling their reputations? "The Widow Of Doctor Kaiogi" found out—why don't you? All hitting the newsstand on **May 29th.**

If there is something alien on the planet Earth, will it automatically cause a disaster? **Superman** investigates the tantalizing problem of "Master Of The Moon Rocks" and meets a surprise super-villain in the **August** issue of **ACTION COMICS (#426).** To add to your reading pleasure, editor Julie Schwartz included **two** Action-Plus stories in this issue. The first takes **The Green Arrow** to "The Wrong Side Of The Tracks" and the other takes Christopher Chance, **The Human Target,** into the middle of a high-wire mystery. Get ready for triple thrills on **May 29th.**

The ape-man returns to claim his lost heritage as "The Return Of Tarzan" draws to a close in the **August** issue of **TARZAN OF THE APES (#222).** That's another Joe Kubert adaptation of one of **Edgar Rice Burroughs'** classic stories, coming your way on **May 29th.** Plus a surprise feature from the history of the lord of the jungle.

The Unknown Soldier's latest impersonation requires him to deliver "A Cocktail For Molotov" in the heart of World War Two. The **August STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (#172)** also contains a new adventure of the men of the **USS Stevens** and a battle-bonus story—"Decision"—the story of an incident at the Alamo. Get ready for this one on **May 29th.**

Get ready, gang! This month **DC** gave you **PREZ!,** the first of our sensational new magazines. Next month we're opening the flood gates and unleashing three more surprise packages—**PLOP!,** the new magazine of weird humor, **STRANGE SPORTS STORIES,** a very unusual blend of fantasy and sports, and **BOY COMMANDOS,** a Simon & Kirby blockbuster straight from the Golden Age of Comics. And that's not all—there's much, much more coming from the line of superstars this summer!



WITCH'S TAILS
S-1847
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5
ARAGONÉS

GHOST HABITS

THE BEHAVIOR OF GHOSTS AS POPULARIZED BY WEIRD STORY WRITERS DOES NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH ACCOUNTS REPORTED BY "GHOST OBSERVERS"...

MIDNIGHT -- THE EERIE HOUR -- HAS BEEN BUILT UP AS THE FAVORITE HAUNTING HOUR OF GHOSTS... BUT THEY ARE JUST AS APT TO REVEAL THEMSELVES DURING DAYLIGHT...

ON BOARD MY SHIP -- FIRST MATE COLLINS! BUT HE WAS WASHED OVERBOARD AND DROWNED ON OUR LAST TRIP!

GHOSTS DO NOT SEEK OUT THEIR VICTIMS ONLY WHILE THEY ARE ASLEEP...

YOU HAVE CHANGED THE TERMS OF MY WILL IN *YOUR* FAVOR! BUT YOU WILL NEVER LIVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!

NO! NO! YOU'RE DEAD!

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE FAVORITE HAUNTING SPOTS OF GHOSTS ARE DESERTED HOUSES AND DISMAL CEMETERIES! LIKE MISERY, A GHOST PREFERS COMPANY...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT HANK BROOKS WAS A CARD CHEAT! NOW THAT I KNOW IT'S TRUE, I'LL MAKE HIM SUFFER!

GHOSTS -- UNLIKE MURDERERS -- DO NOT LIKE TO RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THEIR CRIMES! ON OCCASIONS WHEN THEY DO APPEAR, IT'S FOR SOME OTHER REASON, USUALLY NOT A VERY LOGICAL ONE...

I WAS KILLED TRYING TO ROB THAT BANK! I'LL NEVER GO NEAR THERE AGAIN!

J-3192

STRANGE FEARS!

AMONG OLD-TIME SAILORS, IT WAS CONSIDERED UNLUCKY TO HAVE *DOGS ON BOARD*, WHILE CATS WERE REGARDED AS ASSURING FAVORABLE WINDS AND *PREVENTING SHIPWRECKS!*

IN CALM WEATHER, SAILORS *WHISTLED* HOPING TO RAISE A WIND, BUT IN A GALE THEY NEITHER WHISTLED NOR ALLOWED OTHERS TO DO SO, FOR THEY FELT THAT THIS *WOULD BRING ON A DISASTROUS STORM!*

THE HOUSEWIFE OF YEARS AGO NEVER *SWEPT THE FLOORS AT NIGHT* BECAUSE SHE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BRING BAD LUCK!

THIS WAS BASED ON THE FANTASTIC SUPERSTITION THAT SUCH SWEEPING *DISTURBED THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD* WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT AT NIGHT!

Welcome back to the halls of the Dark Mansion, wherein lurk the most gruesome tales in the history of mankind. Within the walls of the Dark Mansion, you can find all varieties of mystery stories and witches tales. Join me now, and read the forbidden tales that have been sent Through The Keyhole of the Dark Mansion. . .

* * * * *

Dear Witch,

I have read the 10th issue of Dark Mansion, and I thought it was one of your better mystery comics. One of the factors that contributed to this was the fact that you experimented with stories of different lengths. With three different lengths, each story could run its course freely, without being cramped or padded.

Alcala's art is always pleasant, and he turned in a nice job on "The Monster." The story was definitely one of Oleck's best. Instead of harping on an old and time-worn theme, with a typically predictable conclusion, Oleck gave the story an enjoyable philosophical ending. The idea of love as the motivating emotion was a refreshing change. In most mystery stories, at least those done recently in your magazines, hate is the only emotion that seems to motivate people.

Your letters pages remain rather dull, probably because you don't have a personality established for the hostess yet. Please work something out soon so that there's some life to that page.

"They Walk By Night" was another good story. Again Oleck took an unusually creative turn and the result was very gratifying. This Payne guy's art is very good. I thought the panels were a little dark and crowded, but he's got to be one of the best of your new artists, at least as far as storytelling goes. The story flowed nicely and the unusual uses of lettering helped a lot.

"Clearance Sale" brought the issue back to the mediocre. The only redeeming feature of that story was that it was only four pages long. It was quickly done away with, and hopefully forgotten. The plot was the great fault, as the art was too featureless to cause any real complaint. Is Bistur a relative of Bill Draut by any chance?

Two out of three isn't bad, so the issue was pretty good. But next time let's try for a perfect ish!

Tom Hawkins, Richmond, Va.

* * * * *

Dear Joe,

Bring back the book-length gothics or else!

May Winston, Monticello, N.Y.

Cows moo . . . we PLOP!

Dear Witch,

Is "B.D." kidding or something? I can understand her enjoying mystery comics. They're just entertainment. I might even be able to understand her having an interest in the supernatural, and maybe believing in ghosts. But what kind of intelligent person can believe in all that trash about the human race being "an experiment by people from another world" and the like. At this point in human history, when man is finally approaching his world from a rational point of view, this kind of attitude is insane. Wise up and enter the real world, B.D.!

C.W., Cleveland, O.

Dear C.W.,

Everyone is entitled to his own point of view, and remember that scientists haven't proven anything yet about the origin of mankind. All they have are theories.

* * * * *

Dear Joe,

Who did the cover of Dark Mansion #10? You always credit the stories inside, but you often forget to say who did the cover.

John Elliot, N.Y., N.Y.

Dear John,

The cover of #10 was a Nick Cardy creation. Sometimes we can't credit the cover because it is the last thing done on a particular issue. Besides, the artist always has the option of signing it. Speaking of signing covers, you would probably like to know that the gentlemen who signs his covers "LD" is Luis Dominquez.

* * * * *

Well, that wraps up this issue's letters page, and my tenure as the editor of The Dark Mansion. Beginning with the next issue, Denny O'Neil will be your guide through Weird Worlds (Oops, that's one of his other books. Sorry.) and mysterious stories. Not that my output will be slacking off, mind you. I'm just devoting my time and talents to a new DC comic. If you enjoy weird humor, a funny look at the macabre, the work of Berni Wrightson and Sergio Aragones (as well as many others), you ought to pick up the first issue of PLOP!, on sale on June 21st. It's a bargain, 'cause we're packing the book with 32 pages of fun from cover to cover! I hope I'll see you there, as well as in the pages of my other mystery titles. Till then, send your cards and letters to: THROUGH THE KEYHOLE OF THE DARK MANSION, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.